

SENATE BILL 3400

By Yager

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55,
Chapter 4, relative to certain special license
plates.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-209(8), is amended by deleting such subdivision in its entirety and substituting instead the following language:

(8) "Specialty earmarked plate" or "specialty earmarked license plate" means a motor vehicle registration plate authorized by statute prior to July 1, 1998, and enumerated in § 55-4-202(c)(6), which statute earmarks the funds produced from the sale of that plate to be allocated to a specific organization, state agency or fund, or other entity to fulfill a specific purpose or to accomplish a specific goal. "Specialty earmarked plate" or "specialty earmarked license plate" also means Mason and Tennessee Fraternal Order of Police motor vehicle registration plates.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-202(c)(7), is amended by deleting subdivision (AAAA) in its entirety.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-202(c)(6), is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

() Tennessee Fraternal Order of Police;

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-245, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

55-4-245.

(a) An owner or lessee of a motor vehicle who is a resident of this state and who is certified as a member or associate member of the Tennessee Fraternal Order of Police, upon complying with state motor vehicle laws relating to registration and

licensing of motor vehicles, and paying the regular fee applicable to the motor vehicle and the fee provided for in § 55-4-203, shall be issued a Tennessee Fraternal Order of Police specialty earmarked license plate for a motor vehicle authorized by § 55-4-210(c).

(b)

(1) The application for such registration plates shall be accompanied by a statement from the Tennessee Fraternal Order of Police certifying the applicant to be a member or associate member of the organization.

(2) Only members and associate members of the Tennessee Fraternal Order of Police or their spouses shall be permitted to receive the registration plates.

(c) The specialty earmarked license plates provided for in this section shall be of the same design as the Tennessee Fraternal Order of Police plates authorized and issued prior to July 1, 2012, and shall bear the inscription "FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE" or "FOP" and an appropriate standardized insignia of the organization. For applicants who are associate members of the Tennessee Fraternal Order of Police, the Fraternal Order of Police plates, the strip along the bottom of the license plate shall also bear the language "ASSOCIATE MEMBER".

(d)

(1) Within thirty (30) days of terminating membership or associate membership in the Tennessee Fraternal Order of Police, an applicant to whom a registration plate has been issued pursuant to this section shall surrender the plate to the county clerk of the county of the applicant's residence.

(2) The Tennessee Fraternal Order of Police shall provide biannually to the department the names and addresses of any persons who have terminated their membership or associate membership in the Tennessee Fraternal Order of Police, together with any other identifying information as the commissioner may require.

(e) The commissioner is authorized and shall issue a registration plate to an owner or lessee of a motorcycle who is otherwise eligible for a Tennessee Fraternal Order of Police specialty earmarked license plate; provided, however, that the owner or lessee shall comply with the state motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motorcycles and shall pay the regular fee applicable to motorcycles and the applicable fee specified in § 55-4-203 prior to the issuance of the plate.

(f) Funds produced from the sale of Tennessee Fraternal Order of Police specialty earmarked license plates shall be allocated to the Tennessee Fraternal Order of Police Charitable Foundation in accordance with the provisions of § 55-4-217.

(g) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, any person issued a Tennessee Fraternal Order of Police license plate prior to July 1, 2012, shall be entitled to retain the license plate for vehicular use upon compliance with all motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles and payment of all required fees; such plates shall be considered Tennessee Fraternal Order of Police specialty earmarked plates upon their first renewal on or after July 1, 2012.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-202(c)(7)(OO), is amended by deleting such subdivision in its entirety and by redesignating subsequent subdivisions accordingly.

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-202(c)(6), is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

(_) Masons;

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-248, is amended by deleting such section in its entirety and substituting instead the following language:

55-4-248.

(a) An owner or lessee of a motor vehicle who is a resident of Tennessee, upon complying with state motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles and paying the regular fee applicable to the motor vehicle and the fee provided for in § 55-4-203, shall be issued a Masons specialty earmarked license plate for a motor vehicle authorized by § 55-4-210(c).

(b) The application for the specialty earmarked plates shall be accompanied by proof, satisfactory to the commissioner, certifying that the applicant is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons.

(c) The specialty earmarked plates provided for in this section shall contain the logo of the Free and Accepted Masons and shall be designed in consultation with the Grand Lodge of the Free and Accepted Masons of the state of Tennessee.

(d)

(1) Subject to the requirements of § 55-4-201, the commissioner is authorized and shall issue a registration plate to an owner or lessee of a motorcycle who is otherwise eligible for a Masons specialty earmarked license plate; provided, however, that the owner or lessee shall comply with the state motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motorcycles and shall pay the regular fee applicable to motorcycles and the applicable fee specified in § 55-4-203 prior to the issuance of the plate.

(2) The motorcycle plates authorized by this section shall be substantially the same in design and configuration, allowing for variations due to size restrictions, as the regular motor vehicle registration plates authorized by subsection (a), as applicable.

(e) Funds produced from the sale of the Masons specialty earmarked license plates shall be allocated to the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home of Tennessee Fund in accordance with § 55-4-217.

SECTION 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012, the public welfare requiring it.